



January 20, 2006

MEMORANDUM

To: Melba McGee, Environmental Coordinator, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

From: Brian L. Wrenn, Transportation Permitting Unit, NCDWQ *BLW*

Subject: Request for Scoping Comments for the Proposed Widening of US 13 from US 158 in Hertford County to US 158 in Gates County, State Project No. 6.079002T, WBS Element 35488.1.1, TIP Project No. R-2507A, State Clearinghouse Project No. 06-0209.

This office has reviewed the referenced document. The Division of Water Quality (DWQ) is responsible for the issuance of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification for activities that impact Waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Based on a preliminary review of the project study area, tributaries, wetlands and riparian buffers associated with the following named streams could be impacted by the proposed project:

Stream Name	River Basin	Stream Classification	Stream Index Number
Folley Branch	Chowan	C; NSW	25-4.5
Chowan River	Chowan	B; NSW	25
Buckhorn Creek	Chowan	C; NSW	25-2

DWQ has the following comments:

Project Specific Comments:

1. A large amount of riverine wetlands are located northeast of the Chowan River in the project study area. DOT should avoid and minimize impacts to these wetland areas. This may include narrower travel lanes, steeper fill slopes, retaining walls, bridging, reduced median widths, etc. It is unclear from the scoping notice if the existing road would be widened to a multi-lane facility. Currently, the US 13 is a major bike route in the area. DWQ assumes that US 13 would continue to function in this capacity. DWQ supports the construction of bike lanes and access when balanced properly with potential impacts to streams and wetlands.
2. Because this project will be constructed in coastal counties and will disturb more than one acre of land, it will require a state storm water permit. All storm water plans should be designed to meet the requirements of 15A NCAC 2H .1005. All storm water BMPs in the project area should meet the requirements for Nutrient Sensitive Waters of the State.

General Comments:

1. DWQ prefers spanning structures. Spanning structures usually do not require work within the stream and do not require stream channel realignment. The horizontal and vertical clearances provided by bridges allows for human and wildlife passage beneath the structure, does not block fish passage, and does not block navigation by canoeists and boaters.